

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1.-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting call bridging to a third party during a telephone connection between a calling party and a called party, comprising:
detecting tones arising during the telephone connection between the calling party and the called party;
comparing the detected tones to predetermined ring tones to determine if the detected tones are ring tones, wherein ring tones arising during the telephone connection indicate an attempt by the called party to bridge the telephone connection to include the third party; and
executing call-bridging prevention instructions if the detected tones are ring tones.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:
terminating the telephone connection.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:
inserting a warning message into the telephone connection.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:
recording a telephone number of the third party.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:
blocking further telephone connections between the calling party and the called party.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

- comparing a telephone number of the third party against a list of authorized called parties; and
- terminating the telephone connection unless the telephone number of the third party appears on the list of authorized called parties.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

- terminating the telephone connection;
- blocking further telephone connections between the calling party and the called party.

59. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling institutional communications, comprising:

- recording a conversation on telephone connection between a regulated calling party and a called party, the regulated calling party residing in an institution;
- detecting tones arising during the telephone connection;
- comparing the tones to a predetermined call-bridging tone set to identify an attempt to bridge the telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party to include a third party, wherein the call-bridging tone set includes at least one of dial tones, busy signal tones, ring signal tones, dual tone multi-frequency ("DTMF") tones, and special instruction tones ("SIT"); and
- executing call-bridging prevention instructions in response to an identified call-bridging attempt based upon comparing the tones to the predetermined call bridging tone set.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

- terminating the telephone connection.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

- inserting a warning message into the telephone connection.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

recording a telephone number of the third party.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

blocking further calls between the regulated calling party and the called party.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

comparing a telephone number of the third party against a list of authorized called parties; and

terminating the telephone connection unless the telephone number of the third party appears on the list of authorized called parties.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

recording a conversation on telephone connection between a regulated calling party and a called party, the regulated calling party residing in an institution;

detecting tones arising during the telephone connection;

comparing the tones to a predetermined call-bridging tone set to identify an attempt to bridge the telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party to include a third party, wherein the call-bridging tone set includes at least one of dial tones, busy signal tones, ring signal tones, dual tone multi-frequency ("DTMF") tones, and special instruction tones ("SIT"); and

executing call-bridging prevention instructions in response to an identified call-bridging attempt based upon comparing the tones to the predetermined call bridging tone set.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for detecting a call bridge to a third party during a telephone connection between a regulated calling party and a called party, comprising:

a tone monitor configured to monitor a first telephone connection between the regulated calling party and the called party, wherein the tone monitor is responsive to the occurrence of ring tones in the first telephone connection and wherein ring tones are indicative of an attempt by the called party to bridge the first telephone connection to a second telephone connection between the called party and the third party; and

a call handler, activated by the tone monitor, configured to prevent call bridging of the first telephone connection with the second telephone connection by executing call-bridging prevention instructions.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-bridging instructions, terminates the first telephone connection between the calling party and the called party.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-bridging instructions, introduces a warning message into the first telephone connection.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-bridging instructions, records a telephone number of the third party.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66 wherein the call handler, in executing the call-bridging instructions, disconnects the first telephone connection unless the telephone number of the third party appears on a list of authorized called parties.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66 wherein executing the call-bridging prevention instructions comprises:

blocking further calls between the regulated calling party and the called party.